

SENATE RESOLUTION  
8709

By Senators Shin, Spanel, Brandland, Fraser, Fairley, Rasmussen and McAuliffe

WHEREAS, The State of Washington has long been recognized for its tremendous spirit of community, camaraderie, responsibility, and caring; and

WHEREAS, Washingtonians come together in times of national and personal crisis to help each other through the burdens and challenges unforeseen by our neighbors; and

WHEREAS, Recently, in Bellingham, the community lived up to this well-deserved reputation by coming to the aid of a fellow citizen who fell victim to a violent crime; and

WHEREAS, On Sunday, January 25th, Bellingham resident Jong Min Park was shot during a robbery while tending his store, Giffords Market; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Park, his wife Sung Mun, and 10-year old daughter Hye In and his family moved to Bellingham from Florida less than one year and three months ago; and

WHEREAS, As a recent immigrant to Washington and the United States, Mr. Park was not aware of our state's spirit of camaraderie, responsibility, and caring; and

WHEREAS, The community in Bellingham came together and rallied around Mr. Park and his family after this horrible event; and

WHEREAS, Many area businesses donated supplies, food, replacement glass for a broken window, and even supplied staff to keep the store open when the Park family was tending to medical needs; and

WHEREAS, Volunteers spent time making the counter more visible and working shifts in the absence of the owners, selling nearly \$10,000 worth of groceries; and

WHEREAS, Neighbors bought and installed a television and surveillance camera for the safety of the owners in the store; and

WHEREAS, Upon finding out that the family didn't have medical insurance, volunteers raised over \$10,000 in donations to cover the cost of his medical care; and

WHEREAS, Neighbors volunteered their time running the cash register, stocking the shelves, donating money for medical expenses, giving flowers, and buying out the inventory in a show of support for the family; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Park realizes how close he came to losing his life as a result of this horrible crime and the catastrophic result that would have had on his family and that he survived through a miracle and the work of his doctors; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Park feels a tremendous debt to his community for their concern and compassion for the family despite their relative newness to Bellingham; and

WHEREAS, It is occurrences like these that show the true mettle of Washingtonians and the strength of our community; and

WHEREAS, Although tragic, this horrible event demonstrates the power of people who care for one another and their ability to bring people together; and

WHEREAS, The city has shown what a true community is and demonstrated America can be a nation composed of compassionate, caring citizens;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Washington Senate salute the volunteers and businesses for their donations, gifts, and support shown for the victim of this horrendous crime; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the people of Bellingham have exemplified the true spirit of community, camaraderie, and caring inherent to Washington and their example should be followed throughout the state; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be immediately transmitted by the Secretary of the Senate to the Mayor and City Council of the City of Bellingham.

I, Milton H. Doumit, Jr., Secretary of the Senate,  
do hereby certify that this is a true and  
correct copy of Senate Resolution 8709,

adopted by the Senate  
February 13, 2004

MILTON H. DOUMIT, JR.  
Secretary of the Senate